MARVEL

7

WILSON
MELNIKOV
REBER

RATED T+

BLACK CAT

AH!

FELICIA HARDY is the **BLACK CAT**, the world's slyest and most skilled super-thief!
Armed with her luck-altering abilities, there's no heist she can't pull off. The longer the odds, the better!

BLACK CAT

VII. SYMBIOSIS

The BLACK CAT recently tried to change her stripes to become a super hero...and incurred the wrath of Spider-Man's rogues' gallery (and pretty much everyone else in New York City). But Felicia Hardy always has another scheme up her sleeve...

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THERE ARE PLENTY OF *UPSIDES* TO BEING A PROFESSIONAL THIEF.

ZZZZZ

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ABSOLUTE *BEST* PART OF THE WHOLE THING IS?

IT'S WAKING UP EVERY MORNING AND ASKING YOURSELF, *"WHAT DO I WANT TO DO TODAY?"*

YOU'RE YOUR OWN *BOSS.* IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN *DESTINY.* NOBODY TO ANSWER TO, NO RULES BUT YOUR *OWN.*

NOT A CARE IN THE *WORLD.*

BZZT BZZT!

UNTIL YOU REMEMBER...

...YOU BRIEFLY BECAME *INTERNET FAMOUS*, SCREWED EVERYTHING UP, AND NOW *EVERYBODY* HAS AN OPINION.

SPIDEY_FAN616: Black Cat is so fake. Fake heroism. Fake blond. Fake boo

SLOTH_BABY: I hear she tried to one-up Ms. Marvel.

UPTOWN_GIRL3000: And now she's throwing herself at Daredevil, who is MY internet boyfriend

CORRECT_OPINION: Black Cat 👎

I DON'T *CARE* WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT ME.

...IS WHAT I *USED* TO TELL MYSELF.

UGH!

TURNS OUT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF *FAME* AREN'T NEARLY AS *GLAMOROUS* AS YOU MIGHT THINK.

HALF AN HOUR LATER, IN AN ALLEYWAY.

I TOLD MYSELF, IN A MONTH, THE MOB WILL HAVE MOVED ON TO SOME **NEW** SCANDAL.

SLAM!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER RIGHT ***NOW.***

BZZT BZZT!

OH WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO BUT GET RIGHT BACK OUT THERE AND SCREW UP ***AGAIN?***

YES, BORIS?

...WELL, GOOD MORNING TO YOU TOO. WHY DO YOU SOUND LIKE SOMEBODY JUST SHOT YOUR **DOG?**

I MADE THE MISTAKE OF READING THE ***COMMENTS*** SECTION OF THE LATEST ***THREATS AND MENACES*** HIT PIECE.

COME ON, B.C. THIS IS AMATEUR HOUR. YOU SHOULD NEVER READ THE COMMENTS SECTION. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT I CAN'T ***HELP*** IT. IT'S LIKE PICKING A SCAB.

ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU GOT FOR ME TODAY?

DEPENDS. ARE WE **FIGHTING** CRIME THIS MORNING OR **COMMITTING** IT?

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO CONDESCENDING! I'M DOING MY BEST OUT HERE!

OOOH, **CONDESCENDING.** I KNOW YOU'RE PISSED OFF WHEN YOU START PULLING OUT THE **SCRABBLE** WORDS.

SPACK!

BOSS? YOU STILL THERE?

OINK

HELLOOOO?

VENOM.

...WHAT'S THAT SQUISHING SOUND?

PRETTY MUCH THE *LAST* ALIEN SYMBIOTE I WOULD EXPECT TO SEE ON *THIS* SIDE OF TOWN, BUT WE LIVE IN A CRAZY WORLD.

NOW, I'VE CROSSED PATHS WITH THIS ROIDED-UP INTERGALACTIC TADPOLE BEFORE. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. YOU CAN NEVER *REALLY* TELL WHOSE SIDE HE'S ON.

IT'S NOT NICE TO *SNEAK UP* ON PEOPLE.

AND WHEN I GET *STARTLED*, I GO INTO FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT MODE.

BY WHICH I MEAN *FIGHT* MODE.

FLING

FLING

YOU CHOSE THE *WRONG* DAY TO START SOMETHING WITH ME, VENOM--

SPACK

SPACK

SPACK

?!

I TOLD YA THIS WAS A BAD IDEA, RED.

UGH!

NOT BLACK CAT, I SAID. *ANYBODY* BUT BLACK CAT, I SAID. BUT DID YOU LISTEN? N--

THUD!

HRRK!

I HAD NO IDEA WHO HE WAS TALKING TO, BUT IT DIDN'T *MATTER*.

WAIT-- LISTEN--

I HAD *LUCK* ON MY SIDE.

THUD!

SQUAWK!

FLAP

FLAP!

SQUAAAWWK!

SEE YA, SYMBIOTE!

WAIT UP!

HEY! I SAID WAIT UP!

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT, HOLD ON A MINUTE--

FELICIA! HEY!

THAT'S A *GIRL'S* VOICE.

...IT CAN'T BE.

MJ?!

WHAT-- HOW--WHEN DID--?

IT'S A LONNNNNG STORY.

THEN START *TALKING!*

BASICALLY, I FOUGHT THIS THING CALLED THE *ARACHNIOTE* AND I HAD TO BOND WITH THE VENOM SYMBIOTE IN ORDER TO *SURVIVE.*

AND THEN THERE WAS A *WAR.*

...AND YOU DIDN'T *TELL* ME?!

WHY DOES EVERYBODY KEEP *SAYING* THAT?!

IT WAS *COMPLICATED,* OKAY?

I COULDN'T JUST GO THROUGH MY CONTACTS AND SEND PERSONALIZED TEXTS TELLING EVERYBODY, "*BY THE WAY, I'VE FUSED WITH AN ALIEN SKIN SUIT!*"

OH *WHATEVER.*

LISTEN, THERE'S A *REASON* I'M HERE--

I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT.

STOP BEING SARCASTIC!

IT'S IMPORTANT, AND YOU'RE THE *ONLY* PERSON WHO CAN *HELP.*

...OH. YOU'RE *SERIOUS.*

LIKE A HEART ATTACK.

WHAT IS IT? IS IT *PETER?* IS SOMEBODY *SICK?*

WORSE.

IT'S... AN OLD VIDEO.

OF *ME.*

A *VIDEO,* HUH?

IS IT... EXTRA SPICY?

NO, NO, NO!

IT'S NOT *THAT* KIND OF VIDEO!

WELL, WHAT IS IT, THEN?

IT'S AN OLD *AUDITION* TAPE.

I WAS *YOUNG*, I HADN'T REALLY TAKEN ANY *ACTING* CLASSES, AND I MADE A COMPLETE *FOOL* OF MYSELF.

IF IT GETS OUT, IT'LL RUIN ANY SHOT I HAVE AT RESURRECTING MY *CAREER*. I'LL JUST... BECOME AN EMBARRASSING *MEME*.

I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN *RID* OF ALL THE COPIES OF THIS THING.

BUT IT TURNS OUT THERE'S *ONE* LEFT. AND I THINK--I THINK SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME WITH IT.

BUT *WHO* WOULD WANT TO BLACKMAIL YOU?

PLENTY OF PEOPLE.

I USED TO THINK THE WORST THING IN LIFE WAS BEING *WRONG*. BUT WORSE THAN BEING WRONG IS BEING *HUMILIATED*.

AT LEAST ON THE *INTERNET*.

AND I THOUGHT--OUT OF *EVERYONE* I KNOW, *YOU* WOULD UNDERSTAND.

ON AN *ORDINARY* DAY, I WOULD HAVE TOLD MJ TO SUCK IT UP AND LAUGH IT OFF.

BUT THAT WAS *BEFORE.*

WHERE IS THIS TAPE?

WE'LL GO *RIGHT NOW.*

WAIT, IT'S NOT THAT *SIMPLE--*

WHY NOT?

WELL, IT'S SOMEWHERE THAT'S...HARD TO *GET* TO.

OH?

IT'S IN A STORAGE FACILITY.

OH.

SUPER HIGH-SECURITY. STATE OF THE ART.

OH.

...IN THE *NEGATIVE ZONE.*

OH.

HOW THE HECK DID IT GET *THERE?!*

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW!

THAT'S PART OF WHAT I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT! I GOT A *TIP* FROM SOME THROWAWAY EMAIL ADDRESS AND I HAVE *NO* IDEA IF IT'S A FRIEND OR A *FOE.*

SO THIS IS A *HEIST.*

INSIDE A MYSTERY.

INSIDE A PARALLEL DIMENSION.

THAT PRETTY MUCH COVERS IT, YEAH.

WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING I OWE YOU A *GIANT FAVOR* AFTER YOU BAILED ME OUT OF *JAIL.*

BECAUSE A *GIANT FAVOR* IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS IS.

YAY! ROAD TRIP!

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DECIDE ON AN ENTRY POINT, TAKE A LOOK AT THAT EMAIL FOR CLUES, FIX A--

WAY AHEAD OF YOU.

WE ALREADY PRINTED OUT THE *COORDINATES.*

...OKAY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO *WARN* ME WHEN YOU DO THAT. IT'S *UNSETTLING.*

SORRY.

THE EAST RIVER.

THERE ARE *LOTS* OF WAYS TO GET INTO THE *NEGATIVE ZONE.*

ARE YOU SURE THERE ISN'T SOME *OTHER* ENTRANCE? ON *LAND?*

THIS IS THE CLOSEST ONE I *KNOW.* AND IT *SHOULD* PUT US WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE OF THE COORDINATES IN THAT *SHADOWY EMAIL.*

NONE OF THEM ARE *PLEASANT.*

OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO DIVE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE *RIVER* TO REACH IT.

THAT'S WHERE *YOU'LL* COME IN.

AND YOU WANT ME TO DO *WHAT,* EXACTLY? BECOME A SYMBIOTE *SUBMARINE?*

AGAIN?!

DO YOU PREFER TO *DROWN?*

LOOK, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT THE SYMBIOTE HITCHING A RIDE IN YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM, YOU MIGHT AS WELL PUT IT TO *GOOD USE.*

CAN'T WE PUT IT TO GOOD USE IN, I DON'T KNOW... A *DIGNIFIED* WAY?

DO YOU WANT THAT *TAPE* BACK OR NOT?

WAS I AS *CONFIDENT* AS I WAS TRYING TO APPEAR?

NO, I WAS NOT.

BUT I COULD TELL *MJ*, COOL AS SHE WAS, WAS TRYING HARD NOT TO *PANIC*.

SO I HAD TO BE THE *STRONG* ONE.

BECAUSE *BRAVERY* ISN'T A FEELING. IT'S A *DECISION*.

BESIDES--

--HAVE I EVER TURNED DOWN AN *ADVENTURE?*

A CHANCE TO MEET NEW *FRIENDS?*

BLLLPP!

PLIP

FWOOP!

DO YOU HAVE TO *FLIRT* WITH EVERYTHING THAT MOVES?!

SHE WAS CUTE!

SHE WAS HALF *FISH!* SHE'S PROBABLY SOME WEIRD EXTRADIMENSIONAL *HYBRID* WHO ESCAPED FROM THE *NEGATIVE ZONE!*

YOU'RE A WEIRD EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL HYBRID.

SHUT UP. I HAVE TO *CONCENTRATE.*

DOES *THAT* LOOK LIKE THE ENTRANCE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

WOW. IT'S SO *SHINY.*

SO DO WE JUST...FLOAT THROUGH THE *PORTAL?*

I GUESS? I MEAN THAT WOULD BE THE MOST *OBVIOUS* WAY IN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *I GUESS?* YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THIS PORTAL IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN *THROUGH* IT. I JUST KNOW IT'S *THERE.*

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO KNOW ***BEFORE-HAND!***

LISTEN, I JUST DROPPED ***EVERYTHING*** TO HELP YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE ***PROBLEM.*** THERE WASN'T EXACTLY TIME TO FORMULATE A SOLID ***PLAN--***

BAM!

BAM!

GAAH!

THUD!

THUD!

OKAY! THAT WASN'T SO BAD.

SERIOUSLY?! WE JUST GOT DUMPED ON OUR ***BUTTS*** IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE, AND IT WASN'T SO BAD?

IT'S WHERE WE ***WANTED*** TO END UP, ISN'T IT?

ALL WE GOTTA DO NOW IS FIND YOUR MAXIMUM-SECURITY ***SELF-STORAGE*** FACILITY AND WE'LL BE GOOD TO GO.

AND AT LEAST THE ***NEGATIVE ZONE*** ISN'T FULL OF HUSTLERS AND SELF-APPOINTED SUPER-POWERED COPS, UNLIKE NEW Y--

HRRK!

FELICIA?!

WHAT DO THEY SAY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A *JOURNEY* AND AN ADVENTURE?

POOR PLANNING.

WHAT THE HECK?!

OH WELL.

THE THINGS A GIRL WILL DO TO PROTECT HER GOOD FRIEND'S *REPUTATION.*

NEXT: FORTRESS OF MAGNITUDE.

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

HEY, WEB-HEADS!

It's cold outside, but things are hotter than ever in the Spider-Office! Worlds collide in **PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR**, where **JOSH TRUJILLO** and **ANDREA DI VITO** bring the First Family into the unknown--but it's an unknown that WE know (and love) very well! Add a new **PREDATOR** mini called **BLOODSHED** by **JORDAN MORRIS** and **RUAIRÍ COLEMAN** to fill the *Badlands*-shaped hole in my heart? SIGN ME UP! **G. WILLOW WILSON** and **GLEB MELNIKOV** kick off the bombastic second arc of **BLACK CAT**, where Felicia is reunited with MARY JANE and doesn't know that MJ's also VENOM!!! And because Venom can't stand still, this month starts one of the biggest Spider-Stories ever with **ASM/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1**! Spidey, Venom, and Carnage come crashing back together in what feels like a culmination of the story that started in ASM #300! Glad I wore layers today because I'm sweating in this heat!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

DEATH SPIRAL

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Phillip Kennedy Johnson

TITLE: Writer

WORKS ON:
THE INCREDIBLE HULK,
DUNGEONS OF DOOM

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Joe Kubert, Jim Henson, Dizzy Gillespie. Artists who devoted their lives to art and to education, both sacred professions.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

The Lizard! In trying to make himself better, he loses his own humanity and ends up practically destroying himself. I get it, bro.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Visualize exactly who you want to be, dedicate some time every day toward those goals, and don't let short-term crises pull you off the path. Your habits are who you are.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #7

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #1
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #5
- ❑ BLACK CAT #7
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #4
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #5
- ❑ VENOM #254
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #22
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #2
- ❑ KNULL #2
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1

- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #4
- ❑ MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #4
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #1

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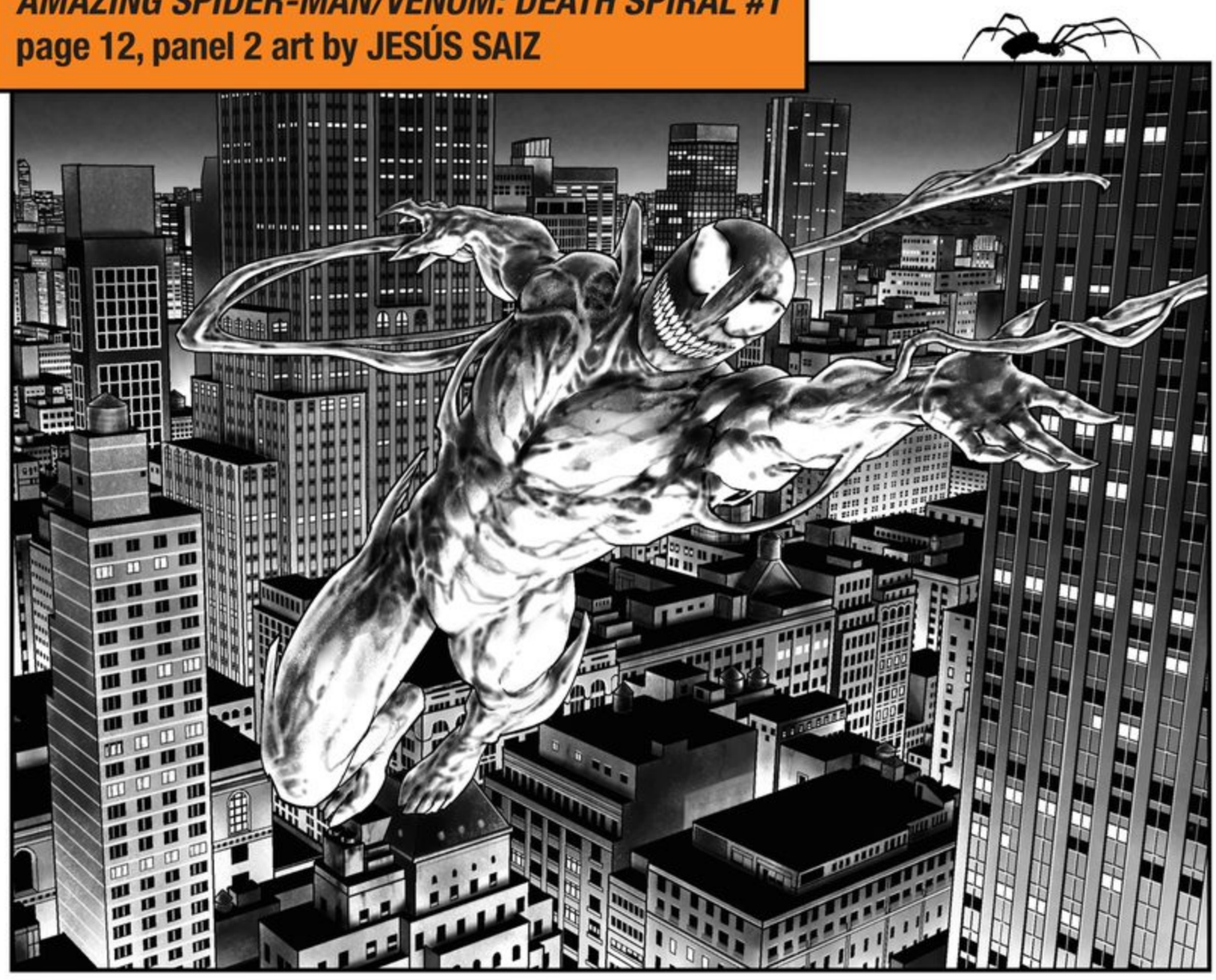
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
page 12, panel 2 art by JESÚS SAIZ



GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

It's a battle with the past this month as lots of things come back to haunt our Hulks! In **INFERNAL HULK #4**, Hulk takes it a little too literally as he wrestles with all his past personas deep in the Hulkscape!

Meanwhile, in **PLANET SHE-HULK #4** out in space, his cousin She-Hulk is throwing down with her ex(?)-boyfriend Jack of Hearts! They used to be so happy!

What could suck more than that, you ask? How about fighting a LITERAL BLACK HOLE? Which is what Hulk is doing in **HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3**!

HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
On sale 2/25

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
Variant Covers by SKAN, STONEHOUSE & DAVE RAPOZA

NEXT

BLACK CAT

#8

ON SALE:
3/11/26